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SURGICAL INSTRUMENT WITH IMPROVED HANDLE ASSEMBLY

Background of the Invention

Cross Reference to Related Applications

This application claims the priority of U.S. Provisional Application Serial No.

P5 10 60/117,079 filed on January 25, 1999, and ^{a con o} _{co-pending} PCT Application Serial No.

14/1404 PCT/US00/01216 filed on January 1, 2000, both of which are incorporated herein by reference.

Field of the Invention

This invention relates generally to surgical instruments, and more specifically to instruments having such as ligating clip applicators adapted to operate and effectors such as multiple-clip cartridges.

Discussion of Related Art

Surgical instrument clip applicators commonly include handles that are operable by a user to close a pair of jaws. In the case of clip applicator, a ligating clip, removably mounted within the jaws, can be crimped or closed to engage tissue or occlude a body conduit such as a blood vessel. The clip is initially mounted within the jaws when the jaws are in an opened state. When the handles are operated to move the jaws to a closed state, the clip is crimped to achieve ligation. Reopening the jaws permits removal of the clip applicator from the ligating clip.

25 Particularly in a modular clip applicator it is always desirable to increase the stability of the handle assembly. With the handles disposed in a common scissors configuration, a single pivot point or fulcrum permits operation of the handles to open and close the jaws.